REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application. Claims 58-75, 77-89 and 92-104 remain pending, of which claims 58 and 94 are independent method claims with corresponding independent computer program product claims 99 and 73, respectively.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's withdrawal of the previous grounds of rejection.

The Office Action objects to claims 77-84 for various informalities. In particular, claims 77-84 variously depended from canceled claim 76. Accordingly, these claims have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this ground of objection.

The Office Action rejects all of the independent claims (58, 73, 94, and 99) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931 to Alexander et al. ("*Alexander*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,681,395 to Nish ("*Nish*"). The remaining dependent claims were rejected either as allegedly being unpatentable over *Alexander* in view of *Nish* and/or further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,526,577 to Knudson et al. ("*Knudson*"). [1]

Applicants' invention, as claimed for example in independent method claim 58, relates to a client system displaying a particular video program and chat communication corresponding to the particular video program. The method includes receiving a video program from a video source; receiving chat communication from a chat room that is associated with the video program; storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication, that differ from one user interface template to another; selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates for use in customizing display of the video program and the chat communication based on at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, or (iv) a network providing the video program; and displaying the video program and the chat communication in

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[1] Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to do so in the future. Accordingly, any arguments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status or asserted teachings of the cited art.

accordance with the selected user interface template and thereby creating a customized user interface for the video program and chat communication. Independent claim 99 recites similar limitations from the perspective of a computer program product.

Applicants' invention, as claimed for example in independent method claim 94, relates to a host server controlling a client system's display of a particular video program and chat communication corresponding to the particular video program. The method includes receiving a chat request from a client system, the chat request including a video program identifying characteristic, for a video program, that identifies at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, or (iv) a network providing the video program; storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication from a chat server, that differ from one user interface template to another; selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates based on the video program identifying characteristic; and sending the selected user interface template to the client system for use in customizing display of the video program and the chat communication at the client system in accordance with the selected user interface template. Independent claim 73 recites similar limitations from the perspective of a computer program product.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of *Alexander*, *Nish*, and/or *Knudson* does not render independent claims 58, 73, 94, and 99 unpatentable for at least the reason that the combination does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of these independent claims. For example, the combination of *Alexander*, *Nish*, and/or *Knudson* does not disclose or suggest (among other things) storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication, that differ from one user interface template to another; and selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates for use in customizing display of the video program and the chat communication based on at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video

program, or (iv) a network providing the video program, as recited, *inter alia*, in various forms within claims 58, 73, 94, and 99.

Alexander discloses an Electronic Programming Guide ("EPG") that can be customized in accordance with user preferences. Although *Alexander* discusses the user's ability to enter a chat room or other interactive services, and that the windows for displaying these interactive services on a display may be modified in size, shape, location, etc., as acknowledged by the Office Action *Alexander* does not disclose or suggest a plurality of "distinct user interface templates and the use of user interface templates." Since *Alexander* does not disclose or suggest a plurality of distinct user interface templates, *Alexander* cannot possibly disclose the selection of one such template based on the above (or any form of) criteria. Recognizing some of the deficiencies of *Alexander*, the Office Actions cites *Nish*.

Nish discloses a program guide display system that utilizes a set of hierarchical templates broadcast from a broadcasting station. The limited set of hierarchical templates may be created and stored based on information about the subscriber including the subscriber's name, age, sex, address, hobby, and preferences. *See e.g.,* col. 4, l. 64 to col. 5, l. 3. In order to efficiently display various components (e.g., time axis frame with hour number of time display components, channel guide frame with channel name components, program cells or components, etc.), *Nish* generates these components from the limited number of organized templates. *See e.g.,* col. 5, ll. 9-34, and Figs. 4-6. These components are then arranged and used to form an overall frame for displaying an EPG to the user. For instance, Fig. 3 of *Nish* illustrates an EPG frame 62 with various components (e.g., time display components 71, 72, channel name components 81-1 to 81-4, program cells 82) that have been arranged and created from templates based on a viewers profile of being 16 years old and liking the sport of soccer. *Nish*, however, does not rectify those deficiencies of *Alexander* noted above for at least the following reasons.

First, *Nish* is silent with respect to a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication. Accordingly, *Nish* does not disclose or suggest storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication, that differ from one user interface template to another. Second, *Nish* does not disclose that its templates are selected based on such things as (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding

to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, or (iv) a network providing the video program. Instead, *Nish* at most discloses the selection of its smaller hierarchical templates based on information about a subscriber. Accordingly, *Nish* cannot possibly rectify those deficiencies noted above with regard to *Alexander*.
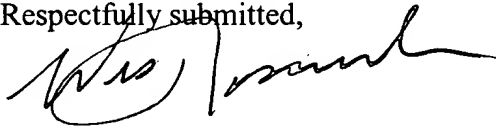
Recognizing some of the deficiencies of *Alexander* and *Nish*, the Office Action cites *Knudson*. *Knudson* discloses an enhanced interactive program guide. As previously mentioned, the Office Action relies on *Knudson* as allegedly disclosing features within various dependent claims. *Knudson*, however, does not rectify the above-identified deficiencies of *Alexander* and *Nish* with regard to independent claims 58, 73, 94, and 99. As such, the combination of *Alexander*, *Nish*, and *Knudson* does not disclose or suggest all of the features of these claims.

Based on at least the foregoing reasons, therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to make obvious Applicants' invention, as claimed for example, in independent claims 58, 73, 94, and 99. Applicants note for the record that the remarks above render the remaining rejections of record for the independent and dependent claims moot, and thus addressing individual rejections or assertion with respect to the teachings of the cited art is unnecessary at the present time, but may be undertaken in the future if necessary or desirable, and Applicants reserve the right to do so.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should any question arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at +1.801.533.9800.

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Respectfully submitted,

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